

The Eyes of IRELAND Open.

Being, A short VIEW of the PROJECT for

ESTABLISHING

The Intended

Bank of Ireland:

With some REMARKS upon its

MANAGERS, PROMOTERS *and* PROGRESS.

In a LETTER from a LADY at *Dublin* to her
Friend in the Country.

To which is added, A

DESCRIPTION of the SUBSCRIPTION,

OR, A true and exact Account of the

Nobility, Gentry *and* Traders,

WHO ARE

SUBSCRIBERS to the *BANK*,

Extracted from the LIST

Published by Order of the Commissioners appointed to receive Subscriptions,

A N D

Interspers'd with NOTES and QUERIES.

The SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N:

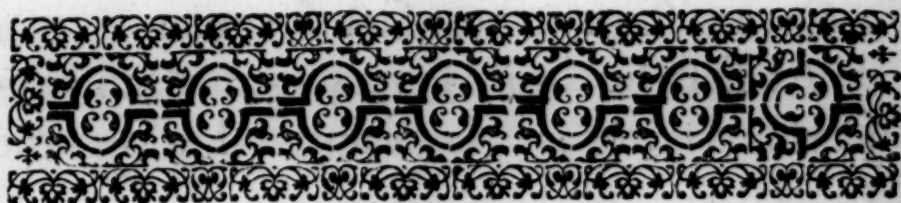
Printed from the 2d Edition of the *Dublin* Copies,
for *J. Roberts* in *Warwick-Lane*, 1722.

The City of London
ESTABLISHING

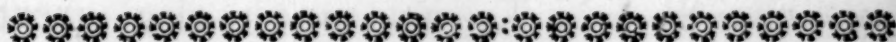
Bank of Ireland

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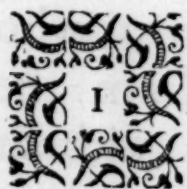




A
L E T T E R
 FROM A
L A D Y at *Dublin,*
 TO HER
Friend in the Country.



DEAR MADAM,



Came to Town three Days before the BANK Books were opened, and resolving to lose no Time, I sent for your Friend, and told him of your Resolutions to Subscribe 2000 *l.* that I had Di-

rections from you to apply to him, and a Commission to transact for you.

At first he look'd very grave and reserv'd, saying ; He doubted I was come too late ; for that so many Persons of Interest and Distinction of *both* Sexes had apply'd, that he was afraid that the Books would be full before they were opened : However (*he said*) he would use his Interest, and rather than you should be disappointed, he would assign one half of his own Subscription to you : At the same Time letting me understand, That it was in Effect a Gift of so much Money, with some *Innuendoes* as if he expected a Præmium.

He then run out in high Raptures upon the B A N K, and upon the great Advantages it would be both to the Subscribers and to the Kingdom ; he extolled the Conduct of the *Managers*, who had procured this B A N K from the GOVERNMENT in *England* without any *Consideration*, for which *Former Projectors* had offer'd no less than FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS. He af-

firm'd that the Subscribers could make no less than 25 l. per Cent. for their whole Subscriptions, of which only one Twenty'th Part was to be Deposited, and then desir'd me to Compute the Value of the Present he had made.

I ask'd him whether he were sure this BANK would succeed? He told me there was not the least Doubt of it, that the Necessity of Affairs requir'd it, whereof the Managers were so confident, that they had actually brought over the IRON-CHESTS to secure the Money; that the, NOBILITY, GENTRY and TRADERS of the Kingdom, were upon Mature Deliberation, unanimously of Opinion, That a BANK was necessary, &c. That he had particularly discours'd with Three Eminent Persons of great Honour, Experience and Sagacity, distinguished for the Love of their Country, and their profound Knowledge in the general Interests of Kingdoms; and far above any Paltry Self-Interest: The First of which with great Strength of Argument asserted, *That we must have a*

BANK, and will have a BANK. The Second, That the South-Sea had occasion'd such a Dearth of Money in the Kingdom, that Paper-Money was as necessary now as Brass-Money was in the Time of King JAMES, and will make us better able to pay our TAXES and our PENSIONS. And the Third with great Volubility of Tongue, and uncommon Eloquence, affirmed, That if People would not confide and believe in such a Set of DIRECTORS and GOVERNORS, as were intended to be Chosen, Neither would they believe in MOSES or the PROPHETS.

He then began to Enlarge upon the great Advantages this BANK would be of to the Publick, That it would *Improve Trade, Navigation, Manufactories, and the Cultivation of our Land; enable us to Govern Foreign Markets, and make other Nations Factors for us, who were NOW only Factors for them.* He then proceeded to a Jargon which I did not comprehend, of *Imports, Exports, Building Ships, Erecting Ware-Houses, Drai-*

ning Bogs, Opening Rivers, Finding Coals, Building Towers, Raising Land, Sinking Interest, &c. And when he was out of Breath, presented me with a Paper call'd, REASONS for a BANK, Written, as he affirm'd, with Force of Reason, Conciseness and Perspicuity of Style, Elegancy in Phrase, Propriety in Diction, and with Masterly Strokes in Political Calculations; and believing he had now fully convinced me, he advis'd me by all Means, That the Money I was to Deposit should be GUINEAS, presuming the Crowds would be so great, that the Clerks would dispatch me sooner.

We parted, I prepar'd my GOLD and the BOND, waited impatiently all the next Day when the Books were opened, and being informed that vast Crowds of COACHES were attending in *Dirty-Lane*, and receiving no Message from our Friend, Concluded the BOOKS were filled, as he had alleged, but still expected to come in upon half his Subscription; and accordingly I re-

ceived Notice to prepare against next Morning.

During this Time I accidentally heard that SOME of the Nobility and Gentry were violently bent against this Project, and among the rest, a certain LORD to whom I have the Honour to be Related, and well known. I waited on him, and gave him the whole History of my Proceedings in this Affair, desiring his Advice and Opinion. I had no sooner ended my Story, than he fell into an immoderate Fit of Laughter, and the first Words he was able to speak distinctly were, That he laughed with greater Pleasure to himself, and as he hop'd less Pain to me, because I had neither paid in my Money, nor given Bonds. He begg'd of me to be in no Pain about the Cluster of COACHES in *Dirty-Lane*, for he suspected that the greatest Part of Gentlemen's Coaches which made that Appearance, were either Lent or Hired to make a Figure, and he presum'd I would be of the same Opinion when I saw a LIST of the Subscribers; and I do affirm (says he)

that

that to my certain Knowledge, the Managers and their UNDER-STRAPPERS are running about the Town all this Time Persuading, Pressing, and perhaps Bribing, Men, Women and Children, to fill their Books.

He told me he had seen the Books that very Day; that there was not half the Capital Subscrib'd, and it was a Doubt, and Matter of great Speculation; whether all the Subscribers had paid in the Twenty'th Part, and given all the BONDS and JUDGMENTS for the Remainder. He confessed there were some Persons of *Honour, Estates* and good *Distinction* amongst the Subscribers, but these were in some Alliance with the Managers and chief Promoters of the BANK: And generally Speaking, the Rest consisted of Press'd Men, and *French* Volunteers.

He allowed the (since chosen) intended *Governor* to be a Person of great Integrity and Honourable Intentions, and gave the greatest Credit to the Projectors; but was sorry he was drawn in, upon any Considerations, or by any Perswasions,

B

into

into a Project to which the Nation was so utterly averse.

I was exceedingly surprized, and entreated him to let me know for what Reasons so great a Majority could oppose this SCHEME? His answer was that he could assign a great Number: But the Principal which prevailed with him, were these that follow.

First, Because he could not conceive that any Sufficient Security had been offer'd, or could be given by the BANK, for the Properties of the Subscribers, and Transferrers, and their Heirs.

Secondly, That no Security could possibly be given that the Presumptive Power, which must be lodged in this BANK if it Succeeds, may not be exerted to the Destruction of the Liberties of the People, and then the next Evil to that of being Dragooned, is that, of being Dragoonable.

Thirdly, Because it is evident, if this BANK shall take Place, and acquire that Degree of Wealth and Power, which may reasonably be apprehended, all that
Wealth

[II]

Wealth and Power must be naturally apply'd to its own Preservation, that is, to the arbitrary Will and Power of those to whom it owes its very Being, and Subsistence.

Fourthly, It is highly probable, that as this is presumed, and actually is now, *a Protestant Bank*, it may drain the greatest Part of the Species of Money from the Protestants, and leave them in Liew thereof only Paper, which can be of no Effect in Times of Confusion, either for their Defence or Subsistence; and consequently the ready Money, which must be allowed the Sinews of War, being in the Hands of the *Irish Papists*, may render 'em more formidable upon such a Juncture to the *English Protestant Interest* of Ireland, than they have ever been since the *Reformation*.

Besides these Reasons his Lordship farther added, that he could not well understand how a Country wholly Crampt in every Branch of its Trade, of Large Extent, ill Peopled, and abounding in Commodities, which they had neither

Liberty to Export, nor Encouragement to Manufacture; could be benefitted by a Bank, which by all he had read, or heard, or observ'd in his Travels, was only useful in free Countries, where the Territory was small, and the Trade General and Unlimited; and consequently where the Profit consisted in the buying, and selling of Goods imported from other Nations, and wholly accru'd to the *Publick*: Whereas the BANK propos'd amongst us, was to be the *Monopoly* of a few; he added, that Mr. MAXWELL in his *Letter* to Mr. ROWLEY had in several Particulars given up the Cause; but especially in one, where he allow'd that before the *Convulsion* occasion'd by the *South-Sea*, from the natural Advantages of PEACE, and the very small Share of Trade allow'd us, the Interest of *Money* fell of it self to 6, and 5 and a half per Cent. which came very near to the only Advantage the BANK propos'd; and his Lordship saw no Reason why we might not now hope for the same Effect from Time, and our natural Advantages, when we have recover'd

cover'd this Loss, as well as we did the Ruins of a long War, upon the Revolution, without venturing upon new Experiments, under which FRANCE, HOLLAND, and ENGLAND have sunk : and which our poor Crazy Constitution is ill able to support, and less able to retrieve. He said plainly, that he look'd upon Mr. MAXWELL as a Gentleman whose Intentions were better than his Abilities : That from poring upon *Dav'enant, Petty, Child*, and other *Reasoners* from *Political Arithmetick* he hath drawn Conclusions by no Means Calculated for the Circumstances and Condition of *Ireland*.

As a great Part of what he said was above my Capacity, so I could never have repeated it, if he had not been at the Trouble at my Request to have given it me in Writing, together with Mr. *Rowley's* Letter, where he told me the Subject was treated in so handsome a Manner, that he was sure it would both please and convince me.

After

After these general Arguments he got up and shut the Door, and in a very low Voice told me in Confidence the History of this *Project*, from its first Commencement, comparing it to the *Machine* of a *Watch* with its various Wheels and Movements, while the main Spring was out of Sight, yet plainly discovered where the Hands pointed and directed. I dare not trust to your Eyes, what he could hardly trust to his own Ears; but, I was so thoroughly convinced from what he whispered, that I instantly wrote a Note to your Friend, and told him *you had altered your Opinion, and would not Subscribe to the BANK, desiring he would give himself no further Trouble.*

After this, I presumed to ask his Lordship two Questions; First, whether the Report were true, that the LORD LIEUTENANT had Interested himself in Favour of the BANK? He assured me it was notoriously False, and Groundless; for His GRACE had behaved himself with the utmost Candor and Indifferency, which appeared throughout the whole

whole Transaction betwixt his GRACE and the *Negotiators*, leaving it to the Wisdom of the Nation to determine what might be profitable for us; whereof I hope the whole Kingdom without Distinction of Party, will ever retain a grateful Remembrance.

My second Question was, How it came to pass that the Commissioners and Managers of the *Bank*, opened the Books, and proceeded to take Subscriptions, after the KING in his SPEECH, in Tenderness to his *People*, had left it to the Consideration of PARLIAMENT; and after it appeared that a great Majority of both HOUSES with the Voice of the *Nation* without Doors; had declared against it? He answered with a Smile, that for his own Part, he could conceive no possible Reason for this Proceeding, but that the Managers were resolved, at all Hazards, to recover the Expences they had been at, in negotiating the Affair of the BANK in ENGLAND, that by this bold Attempt they seem'd wholly to misrepresent and misapply the gracious Intentions of
His

His MAJESTY, as if, after he had loudly Proclaim'd in his SPEECH from the THRONE, that the People of IRELAND should have a BANK, if they pleased, He did at the same Time whisper to the Managers, that we should have a BANK, whether we pleas'd, or no.

I took Leave of his Lordship, and in a few Days found a great Deal of what he told me to be true. For a LIST of the Subscribers being published by order of the Governours and Directors, there came out soon after a printed Paper with NOTES and QUERIES, wherein the Subscribers were Ranked in their proper Classes; which placed them in so ridiculous a Light, that they all began to be ashamed of one another. I took Pains to examine that Paper very carefully by the *Original List*, and found it in every Article to be a *Notorious Truth*, but not the *whole Truth*, for the Author hath Omitted the following Subscribers, viz.

One *French* Corn Cutter,
 One *French* Drawer,
 One Deal-Merchant,
 One *French* Apothecary,
 One *Anabaptist* Clothier,
 One Barrack-Master,
 One Butcher,
 One Agent's-Clerk,
 Besides several *South-Seaers* and *Mis-*
sissipians.

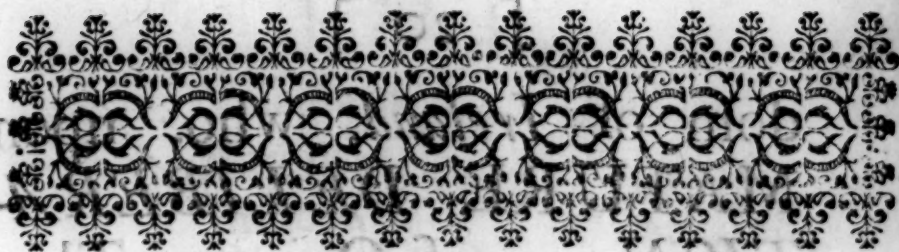
When I saw this LIST, and ob-
 served the Situation of the Subscribing
 LADIES betwixt the SOLDIERS and
 TRADERS, I was highly Delighted
 that you were not one of the NUMBER.
 I was intimately Acquainted with one of
 them, and going to pay her a Visit was
 with some Difficulty admitted. She told
 me she had kept her Chamber some Days
 since the publishing of that Scandalous
 LIST, that she had been rallyed to *Death*
 by all her Acquaintance, that she had en-
 deavour'd to get her MONEY back, or
 at least her *Bond* and *Judgment*, but could
 C prevail

prevail for neither. That she resolved to petition the LORD CHANCELLOR for Relief, and confessed freely to me, that a Proposal was made her of a very Advantagious MATCH, which was brought almost to a Conclusion, but broke off when the GENTLEMAN came to know that her Fortune was in the BANK, alledging, that he could not Depend upon it, because that her *Bond* and *Judgment* was Lodged in the BANK, and that any PART or the whole thereof was lyable to the Demands of the DIRECTORS.

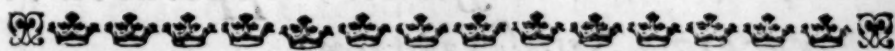
I am,

Dublin, Dec. 1.
1721.

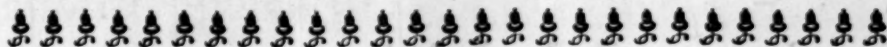
MAD AM, &c.



SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE
BANK of IRELAND,
Plac'd according to
Their ORDER and QUALITY.
WITH
NOTES and QUERIES.



Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus Mus.



A True and Exact Account of
the NOBILITY, GENTRY
and TRADERS, of the King-
dom

dom of *Ireland*, who, upon
**MATURE DELIBERA-
 TION**, are of Opinion, That
 the Establishing a **BANK**
 upon Real Security, would be
 highly for the **ADVANTAGE** of
 the **TRADE** of the said King-
 dom, and for *Encreasing* the
CURRENT SPECIES of
MONEY in the same.

*Extracted from the LIST of
 SUBSCRIBERS to the BANK
 of Ireland, Published by Order
 of the Commissioners appointed to
 receive Subscriptions.*

Nobility.

Arch-Bishops
 Marquisses
 Earls

○
 ○
 ○

Viscounts

Viscounts	3
Barons	1
Bishops	2
<i>French</i> Barons	1
	7

N O T E.

The Temporal Lords of *Ireland* are 125 ; the Bishops 22 ; In all 147 ; exclusive of the aforefaid *French* Count.

Gentry.

Baronets	1
Knights	1

N O T E.

Total of Baronets and Knights in *Ireland* uncertain ; but in common Computation supposed to be more than *T W O*.

Members of the }
House of Commons } 41

N O T E.

Number of Commoners in all 300.
Esquires

Esquires, not Mem- }
bers of Parliament } 37

N O T E.

There are at least *Twenty* of the said 37 Esquires whose Names are little known ; and whose Qualifications as Esquires are referred to the *King at Arms* ; and the said *King* is desired to send to the Publisher hereof a true Account of the whole Number of such *Real* or *Reputed* Esquires, as are to be found in this Kingdom.

Clergy.

Deans	1
Arch-Deacons	2
Rectors	3
Curates	2
	8

N O T E.

Of this Number, One *French* Dean, One *French* Curate, and One Bookseller.

Officers

Officers not Members }
of Parliament --- } 16

N O T E.

Of the above Number 10 *French*; but uncertain whether on Whole or Half-Pay, Broken, or of the *Militia*.

Women.

Ladies	1	
Widows	3	Whereof one qualify'd to be Deputy- Governour.

Maidens

4
—
8

N O T E.

It being uncertain in what Class to place the Eight Female Subscribers, whether in that of *Nobility*, *Gentry*, &c. it is thought proper to incert them here betwixt the *Officers* and *Traders*.

Traders.

Traders.

Aldermen of

Dublin	I a <i>Frenchman</i> .
Cork	I
Limerick	I

Note.

Waterford	o
Drogheda	o
&c.	o

Merchants 29, viz.

<i>French</i>	10
<i>London</i>	I
<i>Cork</i>	I
<i>Belfast</i>	I

N O T E.

The Place of Abode of three of the said Merchants, viz. of *London*, *Cork* and *Belfast*, being mentioned,

QUERY,

QUERY,

Where the rest may be Wrote to, and whether they deal in Whole-Sale or Retail?

Master-Dealers, &c. 59.

Cashiers	1	Bricklayer	1
Bankers	4	Chandler	1
Chymist	1	Drs. of Physick	4
Player	1	Chirurgeons	2
Popish Vintner	1	Pewterer	1
Frenchmen	3	Attorneys	4
but whether Pensioners, Barbers, Valets or Markes, uncertain.		(besides one Esq; Attorney before reckoned)	

As to the Rest of the M-----rs, the *Publisher* of this Paper, though he has used his utmost Diligence, has not been able to get a satisfactory Account either as to their Country, Trades or Professions.

NOTE.

The Total of Men, Women and Children in *Ireland*, besides *French Men*, is 2,000000 : Total of the Land of *Ireland* Acres 16,800000. (*Vide* Reasons for a BANK, &c.

QUERY.

How many of the said Acres are in Possession of 1 *French Baron*, 1 *French Curate*, 1 *French Alderman*, 10 *French Merchants*, 8 *Messieurs Francois*, 1 *Squire Projector*, 1 *Esquire Attorney*, 6 *Officers of the Army*, 8 *Women*, 1 *London Merchant*, 1 *Cork Merchant*, 18 *Merchants* whose Places of Abode are not mentioned, 1 *Cashier*, 4 *Bankers*, 1 *Gentleman Projector*, 1 *Player*, 1 *Chymist*, 1 *Popish Vintner*, 1 *Bricklayer*, 1 *Chandler*, 4 *Doctors of Physick*, 2 *Chirurgeons*, 1 *Pewterer*, 4 *Gentlemen Attorneys*, besides 28 *Gentlemen Dealers*, yet unknown, *ut supra*.

POSTSCRIPT.

Omitted in the first Edition, as observed in the *Lady's Letter*, the following worthy Subscribers : *viz.*

One *French* Corn-Cutter.

One *French* Drawer.

One Deal-Merchant.

One *French* Apothecary.

One *Anabaptist* Clothier.

One Barrack Master.

One Butcher.

One Agent's Clerk.

Besides several Stock-jobbers, *South-Seaers* and *Missisipians*.

Dublin, Printed by John Harding
in *Molesworth's Court*, *Fishamble*
Street.

F I N I S.

POSTSCRIPT.

Omitted in the first Edition, as observed in the Author's Letter, the following worthy subscribers: viz.

- One French Corn-Cutter.
- One French Draper.
- One Deal-Merchant.
- One French Apothecary.
- One Anabaptist Clothier.
- One Barrack Master.
- One Butcher.
- One Agent's Clerk.

Besides several stock-jobbers, Jews, Gentlemen and Missions.

Dublin, Printed by John Harding
in Alderman's Court, 1794.
Sweet.



